



Leigh on Sea

By Judith Williams

Paperback. Book Condition: New. Not Signed; Leigh-on-Sea was described in 1565 as 'a very proper town, well-furnished with good mariners, where commonly tall ships do ride'; during its heyday it had close associations with the Royal Navy. Following the decline of shipbuilding the town became known for oysters and smuggling, and was dismissed by an 1804 traveller as 'small and very dirty, principally inhabited by fishermen'. Its entry into the modern age was assisted by Lady Olivia Sparrow and the Rev Robert Eden, who implemented improvements that made possible the rapid development that followed the arrival of the railway, initially so destructive of the town's physical fabric, in 1854. The old inns and cockle sheds which survived nowadays provide a tourist attraction in the 'Old Town', but fishing and sea-faring do not tell the whole story of the town's past. This welcome new account is the first book to give equal consideration to the north of Leigh, where the farmsteads, woodlands and urban development are no less a part of its history than the fishermen's cottages. In a very readable narrative the author traces the changing fortunes of the town from the earliest times to the present day. With sea...



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